



# Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation NEWSLETTER

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## NEW REEF IMPROVES TURNER'S BAY

A new artificial reef near Turner's Bay Island, Calcasieu Lake, Louisiana was completed in September of 2007. The enhancement to the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program will increase the hard bottom-fishing habitat for Louisiana anglers.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, in partnership with the Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana, coordinated this reef project. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation, Chevron Corporation and Dynamic Industries provided funding for the project. Matt Durand Construction and NOAA Lafayette provided in-kind contributions.

The reef is constructed of crushed limestone, a material of choice for the creation of low-profile artificial reefs. It also minimizes the impacts on other user groups such as shrimping and navigational interests. The reef material was unloaded and placed on the floor of Calcasieu Lake (latitude 30 degrees 03 minutes 20.114 seconds N and longitude 93 degrees 18 minutes 26.509 seconds W). 🐼



Photo courtesy CCA Louisiana

Buoys mark the location of the new artificial reef in Turner's Bay. The reef is expected to provide additional opportunities for anglers.

## YOUTHS FOCUS ON SKILLS, SAFETY AT Y.H.E.C.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation supports the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC). Exercises conducted under simulated hunting conditions provide a practical environment for reinforcing and testing young hunters' skills.

Participants receive hands-on training from rifle, bow, and muzzleloader shooting at life-sized targets; wildlife identification; map-and-compass orienteering, and compete in both junior and senior categories statewide and advance to competition at the national level. 🐼



photo courtesy Terrebonne YHEC team

The 2008 LWFF Calendar is available for purchase by calling the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at 225-765-2918.

## G.P.S. UNITS AID ENFORCEMENT DIVISION EFFORTS

photo courtesy Kell McInnis



LDWF Col. Winton Vidrine, Stephen Clark of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and A. Kell McInnis III.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division, the state's lead water-borne search and rescue agency, was assisted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation and a grant from the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service in the purchase of 200 tactical vests and 100 global positioning satellite systems. The vests and GPS systems will aid the enforcement agents in their daily duties, and in future search and rescue missions. 🐾

## FAMILY FUN IS GOAL AT NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY CELEBRATIONS STATEWIDE

More than 100 years ago, hunters and anglers were the earliest and most vocal supporters of conservation and scientific wildlife management. Today, we celebrate their conservation foresight with "National Hunting and Fishing Day," an event that takes place across the nation on the fourth Saturday of September each year.

LDWF sponsors four events statewide, in Monroe, Minden, Woodworth and Baton Rouge, attracting more than 8,000 people. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation supports the department in the execution of these events through donations, ranging from local business' monetary and product contributions, to providing t-shirts to event coordinators and volunteers.

The events are free to the public and offer hands-on activities such as fishing, boating, shooting sports, live wildlife, educational exhibits, and much more. Louisiana's National Hunting and Fishing Day celebrations foster sound traditions in natural resource conservation, and promote family activities in the outdoors. 🐾

photo courtesy Larry Braussard



A young archer learns proper technique at the Baton Rouge NHFD event.

## LUNKER PROGRAM AIM IS GROWING BIG BASS

In 1997, the Louisiana Lunker Bass Program was created to promote and enhance Louisiana's largemouth bass fisheries. From December through April, anglers who legally catch a 12 pound or greater largemouth bass in Louisiana waters from may donate it to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for spawning, exhibiting or research purposes. Once the fish is accepted by LDWF personnel, participants receive a certificate of appreciation from the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery. Any fingerlings that are produced from the lunker fish may be used to restock the lake from which the parent came. 🐾



photo courtesy USFWS, Eric Engstrom

The Lunker Bass program asks for anglers to donate their prize catch



## L.W.F.F. SUPPORTS CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS

**W**ETSHOP is a week-long, intense teacher workshop designed to introduce educators to the importance of Louisiana's coastal wetlands and issues. In June of 2007, 17 educators from 11 different parishes attended WETSHOP.

Funding for WETSHOP 2007 came from a grant from the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Program and was distributed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation. The money was used to pay a teacher's stipend, bus transportation and purchase of additional Wonders of Wetlands Teacher Activity Guides.

Educators tour coastal Louisiana and experience research trawling, water quality sampling, coastal botany, and presentations from experts in the fields of coastal restoration and invasive species. WETSHOP participants can take the knowledge gained from the workshop and teach other teachers and their students



photo courtesy Kell McInnis

Teachers learn first hand about Louisiana's wetland habitat.

about the importance of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. An estimated 40,000 Louisiana students will be impacted. WETSHOP 2008 is scheduled for June 16-20. Please check [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov) for registration information. 🐼

## MOTTLED DUCKS SUBJECT OF TELEMETRY STUDY

**M**ottled ducks are the primary breeding waterfowl in the coastal marshes of the western Gulf of Mexico. Although the Western Gulf

Coast (WGC) mottled duck is an important species for waterfowl harvesters in the coastal regions of Texas and Louisiana, little is known about the ecology of these birds.



A radio "back-pack" helps researchers track selected birds.

During autumn through winter of 2006-2007, a pilot study was conducted in Texas and Louisiana to gather information about the distribution, movement patterns and mortality of WGC mottled ducks using radio telemetry. The study is a pilot for a proposed three-year study on the ecology of WGC mottled ducks.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation assisted through the donation of two vehicles used throughout the project. The goal of the WGC mottled duck study is to collect scientific information that will help improve conservation efforts for the species. 🐼

To contribute to LWFF, contact A. Kell McInnis, III, Executive Director  
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The new Bass Angler prestige license plate will be available to Louisiana motorists in early 2008.

## L.W.F.F. INTRODUCES NEW BASS ANGLER PRESTIGE LICENSE PLATE

Florida Bass are an integral part of black bass management in Louisiana. The four fish hatcheries operated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries - Booker Fowler, Monroe, Lacombe & Beechwood - produce approximately 4 million Florida bass annually. The fish are released into roughly 80 different statewide water bodies with the goal of creating more successful fishing experiences for Louisiana freshwater anglers.

In recognition of the importance of Louisiana's black bass management program, the LDWF, with the support of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation, have created a Bass Angler prestige license plate for Louisiana residents.

The money generated from the sale of the Bass Angler prestige plates will go to the continued production and stocking of Florida Bass in Louisiana. The Bass Angler plate is available through the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles. For information about the Black Bass Management prestige plate, visit: [omv.dps.state.la.us](http://omv.dps.state.la.us). 🐟

For more information about any item featured in this newsletter, contact A. Kell McInnis, III at [foundation@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:foundation@wlf.louisiana.gov)

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